

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 were pending. Claims 3, 5, 15 and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4, 8, 10-12, 13, 16, 20, and 22-24 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4, 6-14, 16, and 18-24 are pending.

In the present Office Action, claims 1-3, 6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,574,939 (Keckler). Claims 4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keckler in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,418,527 (Rozenschein). Finally, claims 7, and 13-24 are objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 5 and 10-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent for including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the above amendments, Applicant submits the objection to claim 7 is overcome. In addition, claim 13 has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 objection. Accordingly, the objections to claims 14-24 are likewise overcome.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of prior claim 5. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. In addition, independent claim 13 has been amended to include the subject matter deemed allowable in the present office action. Therefore, claim 13 is likewise in condition for allowance. Finally, each of the dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Should the examiner believe there to be any issues remaining which would prevent the present application from proceeding to allowance, please contact the below signed representative at (512) 853-8866 in order to expedite a resolution.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/6000-00800/RDR.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☒ Petition for Extension of Time
- ☒ Fee Authorization Form authorizing a deposit account debit in the amount of \$110.00 for fees (1-Month Extension of Time).

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 8/11/04